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POLAND: Jaruzelski To Travel to Moscow

Polish party leader Jaruzelski will visit Moscow after this week's Central Committee plenum. A well-placed Church official said Walesa is in good physical and mental condition. The government has revealed its plans for "tame" trade unions.

TASS yesterday reported that Jaruzelski will go to Moscow early next month. On Wednesday and Thursday the Central Committee will hold its first plenum since the imposition of martial law.

Comment: The announcement of such a visit has been expected. The Soviets will want Jaruzelski to reassure them that he intends to curb popular resistance and maintain full control. They will press him to go further toward outlining a program for revitalizing the economy and rebuilding the party.

[redacted] that the Central Committee session will discuss Jaruzelski's tenure as party leader and how long military rule should last. The meeting will also assess the extent of opposition and the future of the trade union movement.

Comment: Failure of the party's highest body to meet had become an increasingly embarrassing reminder of its impotence and was likely an irritant to Moscow. The Polish leadership probably concluded that, whatever the differences between moderates and conservatives, the Central Committee had to be convened to give at least the appearance of tackling its own and the country's problems.

Church Attitudes

[redacted] the Church's efforts to play a mediating role continue to be frustrated by the regime's refusal to enter negotiations with Solidarity or to make concessions to the Church in other areas. He said Walesa was in good physical and mental health and that on a recent visit, his priest found him to be more realistic and resilient. The press report of Walesa's release in time for his daughter's christening on 7 March was a trial balloon by the Church, but the regime has yet to respond.

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22 February 1982

Approved for Release
AUG 1999

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The source said that the regime might move against some outspoken clerics, even arresting some, but this would be a manageable irritant. He left [redacted] with the impression that the Church is testing the regime and pushing it in every way it can. [redacted]

Comment: The sense of normalcy and patience portrayed [redacted] is probably not shared by all clerics. These attitudes, however, reflect a fundamental belief that the Church will survive long after the current rulers are buried and forgotten. In tactical terms, this means that the Church will not react precipitously to day-to-day events. [redacted]

Trade Unions Proposal

The Polish Government has presented for public discussion its proposal for the reestablishment of trade unions. The document says that unions will be self-governing and independent from the state and that their opinions will be "seriously taken into account" on economic questions. [redacted]

Future union activities will, however, be under strict supervision. Unions will not be allowed to enter into "antisocialist political activity," their right to strike and establish relations with Western unions will be severely curtailed, and persons known for their "destructive actions" will not be allowed to return to union activity. [redacted]

Comment: The regime clearly foresees only the return of "tame" unions which will exclude almost all of Solidarity's leaders and advisers. It seems unlikely that such unions can establish much credibility with workers, and the demand for "real" unions will continue to plague the government. [redacted]

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